

REGARDING TRAGEDY IN
ARMENIA

(Mr. McNULTY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, our hearts go out today to the families of Prime Minister Sarkisian, Speaker Demirchian and all of those who lost their lives yesterday in the violent attack in Yerevan. And we join with freedom-loving peoples throughout the world in expressing solidarity with President Kocharian and the Armenian people as they continue to promote democracy in their great country.

Mr. Speaker, if the forces of violence think they are going to reverse what happened in September of 1991, they are sadly mistaken. I was in Armenia on its independence day. I watched in awe as 95 percent of all the people over the age of 18 went out and voted. I watched them stand in line for hours to have that opportunity which had been denied to them for so long. Their spirit is strong. They shall not be deterred. The dream shall never die.

Ketse azat ankakh hayastan. Long live free and independent Armenia.

REPUBLICANS WILL NOT STEAL
FROM SOCIAL SECURITY

(Mr. GARY MILLER of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, the Democrat leaders' strategy seems to be to obstruct and delay the budget process. According to Monday's Roll Call newspaper article, Democrat Leader GEPHARDT is telling Members not to support appropriations bills even if they are the product of bipartisan negotiations.

Why would the gentleman from Missouri oppose Democrats and Republicans working together to finish the people's business? What benefit is there in this strategy? Who does the gentleman from Missouri represent when he says do not work with Republicans, do not pass appropriations bills, do not get anything done? This is not what the constituents of my district and the American people want. They want us to pass a balanced budget without raiding Social Security.

Mr. GEPHARDT, please abandon the strategy of gridlock and delay and instead join us in finishing a budget that does not steal from Social Security.

MESSAGE ON REPUBLICAN
BUDGET BILL

(Mr. MENENDEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, on the eve of Halloween, Republicans have

many tricks to play on the American people but no treats, and it starts with today's Labor-HHS vote. This bill does not extend the life of Social Security even by one single day. In fact, Republicans, that is why the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT) does not want to support some of these bills because you have already spent \$17 billion of Social Security surplus through your appropriation process.

This bill fails to provide one penny for a Medicare prescription drug benefit, and this bill only does things that ultimately hurt every American family in some real way. Just like your trillion-dollar tax cut would have saddled our children with a huge debt without extending the life of Social Security and Medicare or making investments in education. And the final trick included in this bill is a 1 percent across-the-board cut that deals a blow to those struggling with diabetes when we cut the National Institutes of Health or to the child in my district walking into an overcrowded classroom.

Let us give the American people a real treat by voting against this bill, a bill that does nothing for Social Security, nothing for Medicare and hurts every American family.

IBERO-AMERICAN SUMMIT

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, our allies in the hemisphere are raising their voices on behalf of freedom and democracy on the enslaved island of Cuba. The Presidents of El Salvador, Nicaragua, Argentina, Chile, and Costa Rica have announced that they will not be attending the Ibero-American summit to be held this month in Cuba. They do not want to legitimize the subjugation of the Cuban people any longer.

In his announcement, in fact, President Rodriguez of Costa Rica emphasized that "the Ibero-American summit is an act of profound political meaning in which the consolidation of the democracy and political development of our countries should always be promoted together with the full respect of human rights." He referred to his September letter to Castro where he stated that far from becoming better, the situation of human rights and democracy has actually worsened in recent months in Cuba.

May the other democratic leaders invited to the summit also find the courage to acknowledge the truth and support the Cuban people and not their oppressor.

DEMOCRATIC PLAN PROTECTS
SOCIAL SECURITY

(Mr. CARDIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, my constituents are perplexed. At the beginning of this session both Democrats and Republicans talked about how important it was to protect Social Security. Now we have the last appropriation bill being considered today and the Republican record is in. The Republican partisan budget uses gimmicks such as a 13th month and directed scorekeeping to spend Social Security money, even though they would say that they are not. They propose large tax cuts that clearly jeopardize our ability to meet our obligations under Social Security, and at the end of the day they have not extended the life of Social Security even one day.

The President has submitted a plan that Democrats support that would extend the Social Security system by at least 16 years. If we all agree that Social Security is so important, that it is keeping our seniors out of poverty and giving them a decent opportunity within our community, then why are we not working in a bipartisan way to get a realistic budget that will really protect Social Security?

REPUBLICAN PLAN PROTECTS
SOCIAL SECURITY

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, is there a single American who believes that government waste, fraud and abuse does not really exist? I do not think so. Examples of misuse of the taxpayers' hard-earned money are far too plentiful. Just ask the 26,000 dead people who received food stamps in a single year. Or ask the folks in Russia who got to enjoy Ben & Jerry's ice cream at the expense of the American taxpayer. Or ask the defense contractor who charged the Pentagon \$714 for an electric bell that I could have bought at Lowe's hardware for \$46. Mr. Speaker, I could go on, but my point is simple. The Republican plan to take one cent, this is one penny, one cent of every dollar of the Federal bureaucracy is not only responsible, it is necessary.

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I find these misuses of taxpayer money outrageous. What makes them more outrageous is the Federal Government has been raiding Social Security for 30 years to pay for this kind of thing. One penny, 1 percent. Believe me, there is at least that much fat in every bureaucracy that can be eliminated. It is minimal, it is fair, it is the right direction.